

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for generating television program recommendations based on a user-specified query. The disclosed television programming recommender automatically constructs a query based on previous searches that have been executed by the user. For example, the television programming recommender can automatically initiate a search in response to a user command, such as a one-button click, using the top-N search terms for each attribute that have been previously used in a query. One or more default terms may be specified for a given attribute to supercede the corresponding top-N search terms. Each query is evaluated against a set of programs in an electronic programming guide to identify programs of interest to a particular user. Each time a search is initiated by the user, the query is decomposed to identify the attribute-value pairs specified by the user and a counter is incremented. When an automatic search is initiated, the top-N attribute-value pairs are retrieved for each possible attribute and automatically placed in the search bin. The attributes of each program in an electronic program guide are compared to the attribute-value pairs specified in the automatic query to identify programs satisfying the limitations of the automatic query.

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